

Charleston Club Tattler

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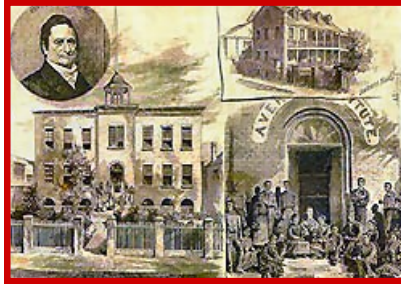
May 1, 2015



Avery Institute 150 Years Old!

Avery Institute Founded 150 Years Ago!

Shortly after the end of the Civil War (April 12, 1861 ~ April 9, 1865) a small group started a Charleston landmark, **Avery Institute**. Founded in 1865, the Avery Normal Institute was the first accredited secondary school for African Americans. Established by the New York based American Missionary Association (AMA), the school was initially named in honor of New York abolitionist Lewis Tappan. Renamed Saxton after Union General Rufus B. Saxton, an assistant commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, the school was temporarily located in several buildings confiscated by the federal government. It was staffed with Northern white missionaries (AMA) and members of Charleston's antebellum free black community, such as the Cardozo brothers, Thomas and Francis. Thomas W. Cardozo (1865-1866) was the school's first principal, Francis the second (1866-1868).

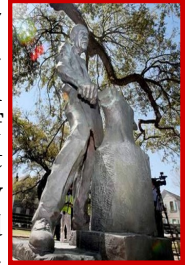


Francis Lewis Cardozo campaigned to construct a permanent building (1867-68). He persuaded the AMA's traveling secretary, E. P. Smith, to seek \$10,000 from the estate of the late Reverend Charles Avery (a philanthropic Methodist minister), from Pittsburgh, PA. With additional aid from the Freedmen's Bureau, the new school building, renamed Avery, was finished in 1868. Constructed by local white contractors for \$17,000, the school was designed in the Italianate style with arched entry, cupola, and piazzas running the length of the building and opening into classrooms. Cardozo expanded the school's mission beyond primary and secondary education to include teacher training. Prohibited from teaching in all but one of Charleston's black public schools, many graduates taught in one-room school houses all over S.C. The School operated for years as a private institution and by 1900, enrollment had reached nearly 500. In 1947, the institute became a part of the public city schools. Avery graduates excelled as educators and community leaders until the school closed its doors in 1954, having serviced 89 years in the Charleston community. Today the Avery Institute Bldg. serves as an African American Research Center.

Simmons' Statue Relocated to Hampstead Square

The City of Charleston rededicated its statue of Philip Simmons (1912-2009) on March 31st, the renowned master blacksmith who helped shape the look of Charleston. The statue of Simmons was rededicated during a cere-

mony at Hampstead Square, located at 67 Columbus Street. Simmons, whose ironwork can be seen throughout downtown Charleston, died in 2009 at the age of 97. The Simmons statue previously sat at the Josiah Smith Tennant House on East Bay Street. According to a release, Hampstead Square was selected as the statue's new location because that is where Simmons often sat to watch the children play. Philip Simmons' favorite quote was... "If you want your prayers answered, get up off your knees and hustle."



Nat Fuller Feasts to Commemorate End of Civil War

In April 1865, Nat Fuller (1812-1866), a newly free African American cook, hosted what one observer described as a "miscegenation dinner" at his restaurant in Charleston. Fuller's dinner guests, both black and white, celebrated Emancipation and the end of the Civil War. Prof. David S. Shields (University of South Carolina), writes in his soon to be published book that Nat Fuller's work and legacy as an enslaved cook, caterer, and restaurateur, and provided insight into the culinary history of antebellum Charleston. Nat Fuller, who masterminded the interracial banquet that helped set a civil course for post-Civil War Charleston, is remembered as the "renowned presiding genius" of nineteenth-century Charleston cuisine.



Born on a St. Andrews plantation in 1812, Fuller was the son of a planter and an enslaved woman. Around 1819, he was sold to the Daniel Stevens, and then sold again at the age of 14. He was sold at a sheriff's auction in 1827 to William Gatewood, an energetic young businessman who arranged for Fuller to be trained as a butler and cook. "Gatewood needed a cook in order to do the sort of entertaining expected of someone making their way in Charleston's arcane social world."

Fuller was unique, combining the organization of a field marshal, the savvy of a wholesale merchant, the skill of a trained chef, and the social finesse of a career diplomat. He collected talented assistants, including young African-Americans as pastry chefs/cooks, who would become his successor and the trainer of most of the black hotel chefs of the late 19th century in Charleston.

In autumn 1860, Fuller opened *The Bachelor's Retreat* at 77 Church St., offering "Breakfast, Dinner, Supper, Lunch, and Oysters, served up at any hour and in every style." Fuller's development of Charleston cookery in its synthesis of the French pastry-cooking tradition with plan-

tation and hotel meat cookery. He was the first to insinuate vernacular and African-American influences into high-style cuisine. Fuller was the prince of protein, and his Tuesday bill of fare in autumn of that year displays his mé-tier: “Lamb Mutton of rare quality, with Green Peas, Duffield Hams, Oysters in Soup, Fies and Patties, Calf Head Soup, A la Mode Beef, Chicken Fies, Ducks, Boned Turkey... with vegetables and dessert courses.” Nat Fuller, Charleston native died of “typhoid fever” at his residence at 77 (now 103) Church Street on Dec. 16, 1866; he was 54-years-old and was buried at the Herriott St. Cemetery.

On April 19th they hosted a “Nat Fuller’s Feast” in Charleston with 100 guests at an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of this “mixed-race” fancy dinner. Similar “Nat Fuller’s Feast” occurred in Columbia, Clinton and Greenville during April 2015. If Nat Fuller’s story has eluded your attention, you can find a detailed profile of his life and career at the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative’s new online exhibit, [Nat Fuller’s Feast: The Life and Legacy of An Enslaved Cook in Charleston](#).

MUSC’s New Children’s Hospital

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) has started a fund-raising campaign to build a new children’s hospital. Country music star Darius Rucker and his wife donated \$265,000 and will lead the campaign to raise \$350 million. The new facility will have up to 270 beds for intensive care unit patients, neonatal ICU patients, acute care patients and new and expectant mothers. All patient rooms will be private, equipped with furniture that will comfortably accommodate short or long-term stays by patients and their families. The new hospital will devote an entire floor to the care of children battling cancer.



Meet Charleston Club’s “Diamonds in the Rough”

The Charleston Club is growing, we are in our sixty-sixth (66th) year in the Washington, DC area, and we have over 100 “dues paying” members on our roster. Just as our Club’s size has increased, so too has the diversity of schools in our membership. The Charleston Club was started on July 10, 1948 with 26 friends from three Charleston area schools; **Avery (Tigers)**, **Burke (Bulldogs)** and **I.C.S. (Lions)**. As we look at our roster, we are proud and thankful for those members who have once lived in the DC area and/or came to DC in support of a Charleston Club function, and wanted to be a part of IT! These members, who now live outside of the DC area, are truly faithful supporters of **The Charleston Club**. They are active members of the Club in every way and very supportive in all we do! It is with this in mind that we have decided to feature a “short snap-shot” about each of these members. They have truly enlighten each of us and helped to make **The Charleston Club** become stronger and more successful!

Cynthia Osborne Coulter (Bonds-Wilson 1965) currently lives on Dunning Road in Summerville, SC. Cynthia graduated from Claflin in the late 60s and is a retired 30+ year Charleston County Health Ed and Physical

Education school teacher. A few years ago she came to the Washington area to visit her sister (Janie Osborne Robinson) and attended a Charleston Club function, she thoroughly enjoyed herself and her sister encouraged her to join the Club. When she decided to move out of the city, Summerville was not too far... “home away from home!” Later she decided she wanted to be an active member of the Charleston Club to support it and stay in touch with her Bonds-Wilson Cobra friends.

James L. Gilliard (Burke 1957) still loves a “good cruise,” he and his wife, Portia recently returned from a Caribbean Cruise in April 2015 and currently lives on Argent Place in Bluffton, SC. Gillie spent 28 years as a social worker in New York City and has 2 years active duty in the Army (and 21 in the Reserves). The S.C. State graduate was president for 10 years of his local SCSU alumni chapter; that’s where he was motivated by Ned Felder to join the Charleston Club. When it came time for retirement, he ideally chose a location between Hilton Head Island and Interstate 95, he wanted to stay in the Lowcountry and still be close to Charleston. He has been an active member of the Charleston Club because it keeps him “close” to his “roots!”

Mildred C. Green (Burke 1960) was a Richmond, VA residence for many years and an active member of the Club during her stay in the area. In the 60s she moved to New York City and attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC (SUNY); thereby becoming a stock worker with Goldman Sachs & Co. She later moved to Davenport & Company, LLC in Richmond and spent 11 years with the brokerage firm. Mildred currently lives on Dervish Lane in Charlotte, NC. When she decided to move to Charlotte she wanted to maintain her active membership in the Charleston Club, she enjoys the comradery and reading her monthly Charleston Club *Tattler*.

Carl M. and Elisabeth L. Greene are both Charlestonians. Carl (Burke 1955) and Lis (Avery 1951) lived in Arlington, VA for many years. Carl was a stand-out at Maryland State Eastern Shore (now University of Maryland Eastern Shore) and recently was inducted in its Basketball Hall of Fame; he is also an Army veteran (1961). He retired with 32 years of teaching in the Arlington School System. Elisabeth (“Lis”), the former “Miss Avery-’51”, was a computer system analysis when she retired from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). They moved to their Aloma Woods Blvd home in Oviedo, FL (just south of Orlando) about 20 years ago and have enjoyed their retirement years living in the warm Florida sunshine. They both still enjoy their friends’ visiting Disney World, traveling and staying in touch with “ole friends” and reading their Charleston Club news.

Ellis T. Greene (W. Gresham Meggett 1966) moved to the Summerville area in 2010 and currently lives on Pemberly Blvd. Ellis attended Hampton and Norfolk State; he has 27½ years in the military, serving in both Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm in the field of aviation. Then he worked for FEMA (Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency) until his retirement. It was a trip to the DC area for a Charleston Club activity that triggered him to begin thinking “hard” about becoming an active member of the Charleston Club. He enjoys his joining the Club and hearing old Charleston tales; especially about his “ole” Gresham Meggett Mighty Eagles folks!

William Heyward (Burke 1964) spent 35 years in the Landover, MD area, working 34 years with the Naval Audit Service (Navy Department). He is a proud S.C. State National Alumni Association member and is now retired. In 2006 he and his wife, Helena decided to relocate south, and currently lives on Quill Moore Road in Clarkton, NC. Clarkton is a small town just north of the SC state line, between Lumberton and Wilmington, NC; it is a few miles from the N.C. Outer Banks. He decided to stay “in-touch” with “his” Charleston friends and has continued his active membership in the Charleston Club.

Zeni C. Jackson (Burke 1957) is recovering well from a hospital stay earlier this year. She started her undergraduate work at Allen, but decided to change to _____ University where she received her degree. Zeni currently lives on Wexford Court in Phillipsburg, NJ. She has always been an active member and an integral part of the Club. Zeni is known for taking the Interstate Hwy to Philly and making that 3 hour trek down to Club meetings. She made numerous round-trips (NJ to DC) during the weeks before The Charleston Club’s July 2012 Grand Reunion. She is still very active in the Club but has not been up to hitting the road of late.

Bennie W. Louder (Burke 1958) and his wife, Mary currently live on Meadowridge Drive in the SW area of Atlanta, GA; they also lived in the Savannah area. Bennie attended Troy State (SE of Montgomery, AL) and Morris Brown College in Atlanta. He visited DC for a Charleston Club function a few years ago and was “hooked.” In retirement he still enjoys discussing “ole-school” football games and “ole Charleston tales,” and being an active member of the Club. Charleston Club membership was a “no-brainer” for him...he still wants to read the *Tattler* to see what’s happening in the Holy City!

Ralph O. McNeill (Burke 1970) currently lives on West 149th Street in New York City. He has 19 years with the New York Transit Authority and knows “ALL” the cheap ticket-routes from NYC to Washington, DC. Ralph recently moved from his West 147th St. apartment to his new “digs” on West 149th St. He recently started an upscale “catering” business of late; and it is taking up much of his time. Ralph is always at Club meetings and on time! It has got to be a pretty big snow storm for him not to make the trek from “the city” to a DC area meeting. Ralph is and always will be there!

Sandra D. McNeill (C.A. Brown 1967) was in the first “full-term” (8th~12th grades) graduating class of C.A. Brown. She currently lives on Madison Avenue in New York City. Sandra attended S.C. State in the late 1960s on a scholarship but moved to NYC in 1970s and finished her undergraduate degree from City College of New York (CCNY). The C.A. Brown Panther is thinking about re-

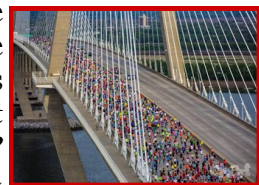
irement soon! She doesn’t make it to many Charleston Club meetings, but she frequently provides articles and input to the *Tattler* newsletter. Sandra contributes to the Club’s functions and is always just a call away. She enjoys reading the newsletter and wanted to continue being an active member of the Charleston Club.

Cornell H. Osborne (Bonds-Wilson 1958) currently lives on East Sidney Street in Philadelphia, PA. He and his wife, Loretta were frequent guest at Charleston Club parties and dances for many years...and so they decided to formally join the Club about 7 years ago. Cornell studied electronics at Spring Garden Trade School in Philadelphia and served 23 years in the Navy on Active Duty and in the Reserves. He is a retired electrician from Philadelphia Utility Works and enjoys traveling. They have an affinity for and with their Bonds-Wilson Cobra members (i.e. relatives... Cynthia Osborne Coulter and Janie Osborne Robinson) who are members of the Club.

Thomasina Smith-Cook (Burke 1963) currently lives on St. Margaret Street in Charleston. She attended Southern Wesleyan University in Charleston; she became extremely active with her Burke H.S. Alumni Foundation and was encouraged by then president, Ned Felder to join the Charleston Club. Thomasina is a retired manager of the Physical Therapy, Materials Office and other departments at MUSC (Medical College). She has a lot of “ole friends” in the Charleston Club, just because she can’t make it to Charleston Club meetings, she still wants to know what’s going on...meeting minutes and the *Tattler* keeps her “up-to-speed” on the Club’s activities and what is happening in her “own” hometown.

38th Annual Cooper River Bridge 10K Run

The 38th Annual Cooper River Bridge Run occurred on March 28th. From the sideline, to the finish line, the Cooper River Bridge Run has offered a mix of fun, fans and first over its 38 years. What makes people keep coming back? Some say “...they just Love it!” Running a 10K is the equivalent of running 6.21 miles. The first Bridge Run was held on Sunday, April 2, 1978. That year, local church leaders complained about the event being scheduled on a Sunday morning, leading organizers to schedule the event on the first Saturday of April. The 1983 edition of the Bridge Run saw the 10K time fall under the 30-minute mark for the first time. It would take until 1992 for that time to fall below the 29-minute mark. The race route originally took runners across the old Silas Pearman Bridge. The last race across that structure was in 2005, when 18,480 people took part. The following year, with the route over the new Arthur Ravenel Bridge, the number of runners jumped to 33,742. That was also the first year the number of women finishing the race exceeded the number of men.



Atlanta’s SWD Football Stadium to be Re-named

Legendary Southwest DeKalb (SWD) High football coach William “Buck” Godfrey, his family, former players

and supporters were present on April 1st as the DeKalb School Board unanimously approved to rename the stadium in honor of Godfrey, the retired Southwest DeKalb High football coach and author who inspired his players to seek academic excellence. The DeKalb School System's 8,500-seat Panthersville Stadium will soon bear the name of William "Buck" Godfrey, the county's "winningest coach." The Decatur stadium was built in 1968; it is slated for extensive renovations of \$710,618 in repairs and improvements. A date has not yet been set for the official dedication as Godfrey Stadium, but is scheduled in May before the end of the current school year and the start of the new football season.

Ms. Lois Simms, English Teacher Died in Charleston

Ms. Lois Averetta Simms, a lifelong educator and community leader, died peacefully on Sunday, April 12th in Charleston. Her brother Jasper Simms, Jr. died March 5th at the age of 97. She is survived by her niece, Carmen Simms-Gaston (Caregiver). Lois A. Simms was the valedictorian her class of 1937 at Avery Normal Institute. Simms continued her education at Barber Scotia Junior College and later received a B.A. in English and Social Studies at Johnson C. Smith University in 1941. She completed her Masters in Education at Howard U. in 1954 and did postgraduate work at Syracuse University and The Citadel. Ms. Simms taught at various schools in the Charleston area for over 35 years; including Avery, Laing, Henry P. Archer, Burke and Charleston High. Ms. Lois A. Simms was a phenomenal woman who influenced the lives of many (if not most) of Charleston's young students. She was very active throughout her lifetime membership at Zion-Olivet Presbyterian Church on 134 Cannon Street where her funeral services were held on April 18th.



Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners ...

- **Avery's Class of 1940** is celebrating their **75th Diamond Anniversary/Reunion** this year. In 1990 when they celebrated their 50th anniversary, the Avery Research Center was formally opened. Out of a class of sixty graduates, 37 were alive and 17 participated in their reunion. As is the case in 2015, their 4 class officers; Richard M. Hunt, Sr., President; Judge Richard E. Fields, Vice-President; Julia Magwood-Harris, Treasurer; Cynthia McCottry-Smith, Secretary are among the dozen class members still alive! Jametta White Martin, was the class of 1940 valedictorian. (Note: **Julia Magwood-Harris and Jametta White Martin are currently active members of the Charleston Club!**) Plans are under way, but details for the Fall reunion are in the works!
- **Burke's Class of 1955** is celebrating their **60th Annual Reunion** during May 21-24th in Charleston. Classmates will enjoy a Luncheon (where each classmate share one unforgettable high school experience), a Dinner Cruise/Banquet, and a Worship Service. A highlight of all of the

classes' reunions is their "Donation for Scholarships" drive to help a worthy Burke graduates attend college.

- **ICS' Class of 1965** is celebrating their **50th Reunion** in Charleston this year. The Class of '65 had a big reunion and celebration in 2012 for their 47th, they wanted to get a "head-start" on their 50th celebration. Details of the event have been mailed out to class-mates and friends.
- **Burke's Class of 1965** is hosting "**A Big 50th Reunion**" in Charleston with a diner/dance and a harbor cruise during the first weekend in June. Plans also include a class picnic and Worship Services are scheduled!
- **Avery Research Center** celebrates its **25th Anniversary** this summer, it was 1990 that the Avery Research Center was formally opened to the public.
- There are two (maybe three) African Americans in the race for Charleston's next mayor. **William Dudley Gregorie** who has a scheduled fund raiser in the Washington, DC area on May 12th and **Maurice Washington** are the two candidates. Washington previously served on city council and made an unsuccessful bid for mayor in 2011. State Rep. **Wendell Gilliard** is said to be considering entering the race.
- The Charleston *Post and Courier* was awarded the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for public service for *Till Death Do Us Part*, a series that the award's panel said "probed why South Carolina is among the deadliest states in the union for women and put the issue of what to do about it on the state's agenda."

Happy Birthdays!

May Birthdays:

Michael McKinney - May 2nd ~ Angela Martin - May 3rd
 ~ Bernice Brooks - May 7th ~ Vera Bradford - May 13th ~
 Lanard Geddings - May 18th ~ Janie Robinson - May 20th
 ~ Terence Edwards - May 26th ~ Georgia Chisolm - May
 28th ~ Gilbert Knowles - May 30th.

June Birthdays:

Bobby Palmer - June 2nd ~ Marva White - June 6th ~
 Reginald Russell - June 10th ~ Yolanda Greene - June 21st
 ~ Hamilton Parker - June 21st ~ Bennie Louder - June 27th
 ~ Herman Perry - June 29th ~ Allen Coley - June 30th.

July Birthdays:

Edward Hamilton - July 7th ~ Estelle Perry - July 8th ~ John
 McNeil - July 20th ~ Catherine Briggs - July 24th ~ Paula
 Edwards - July 30th.

August Birthdays:

Irene Green - August 10th ~ Carl Greene - August 10th ~
 Thomasina Smith-Cook - August 14th ~ Norma McKayhan
 - August 17th ~ Mildred McDow - August 23rd ~ Julia
 Harris - August 24th ~ Cynthia Coulter - August 28th ~
 William Heyward - August 29th. *- The Fly on The Wall !*